PHILADELPHIA. The Price is three cents per copy (double sheel); or eighteen cents per teeck, payable to the carrier by whom served. The subscription price by mall is Nine Dollars per annum, or One Dollar and Fifty Cents for 100 months, invariably in advance for the time ordered.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1870.

ART PROSPECTS IN AMERICA. Juponio from the expression of opinion in the press and elsewhere, we are constrained to believe that the Legislature will refuse to pass the bill incorporating the railroad to be known as the Schuylkill River and Augora Railroad, and thus defeat a bold project to traverse the public domain lately acquired for the specific purpose of a park. On Saturday we asserted, as we now reassert, that the plea of necessity for running the aforesaid railroad through the Park, or indeed in any direction similar to that proposed, is absurd on its face, in view of the fact that the initial and terminal points of the road are already connected by a railroad along the banks of Schuylkill. We are rejoiced to think that the Park, which has already cost three and a half millions of dollars, and which offers in its site, famed for the quiet beauty of its scenery, advantages that should eventually make it the first in the world, will escape this ruthless invasion of its precincts. This subject may be considered disposed of, but it suggests to us some remarks in the interest of art as affecting the whole people of our The poet truly intimates that by the eyes of

others we obtain of ourselves a more just estimate than our own. Let us, then, to see ourselves correctly in matters of art, refer to the view taken of us by a great critic in it, Ruskin, who, despite his vagaries, has done much for the world of art. Writing of this country, some years ago, he said: - "Are you aware that there is another form of nostalgia which afflicts only Europeans, and, so far as I know, is felt only in one part of the world? Its symptoms have not hitherto been described, and I may christen it Form-sickness. This Form-sickness begins to attack you after you have resided some time, say a couple of months, in the United States of America. But it is when you come to dwell in towns that Form-sickness gets its firmest grip of you. In a city of three or four hundred thousand inhabitants, you see nothing but mere flat surfaces, straight lines, right angles, parallel rows of boards, and perpendicular palings. It is sufficient to note the fact that Europeans, the least prejudiced and the most ardent admirers of the political institutions of the United States, very soon grow fretful and uneasy there, and are unable to deny, when they come back, that the country is not an elegant or a comfortable one to look upon. I attribute this solely to methetic causes. It is in the eye that the mischief lies. It is the bran-new mathematical outline of Columbia that drives the Engglishman into Form-sickness, and ultimately to the disparagement and misrepresentation of a very noble country. If they would only round off their corners a little! If they would only give us a few crescents and ovals in lieu of 'blocks!' If they would only remember that the circle as well as the rectangle is a figure in mathematics, and that the curvilinear is, after all, the line of beauty!"

It is the scorn and the protest of an enthusiast in art, levelled against the sometimes ignorance, sometimes neglect, of all that contributes to charm the sense which, according to Dr. Johnson, and by common experience and consent, regards its objects longest without satiety. It is a striking portraiture of the result of that purblindness which has at last begun to perceive a glimmering of the truth, and allowed us to set about remedying the evil. It is less true than when it was written, and is daily becoming less and less; but as a generalization it is still near enough to the truth to enlist our serious attention. Recently. the same author, frenzied by the tendency of the age, lost his calm judgment, when he cried from his old Alpine haunts:- "I have seen strange evil brought upon every scene that I best loved, or tried to make beloved by others. The light which once flushed those pale summits with its rose at dawn, and purple at sunset, is now umbered and faint; the air which once inlaid the clefts of all their golden crags with azure, is now defiled with languid coils of smoke, belched from worse than volcanic fires; their very glacier waves are ebbing, and their snows fading, as if hell had breathed on them; the waters that once sank at their feet into crystalline rest, are now dimmed and foul. from deep to deep and shore to shore."

This is very midsummer madness: the happy mean is where Ruskin earlier pinned his faith. The earth is man's for his physical as well as his moral welfare; but Ruskin's love of the beautiful would let him starve. We, on the other hand, with our former indifference to all but material existence, would dwarf the moral stature. The increase within a few years in æsthetic knowledge is marvellous. We have produced in literature, in sculpture, in landscape painting, in music, and in the drama, artists of the first order. Thousands from our shores yearly visit in Europe the art treasures of centuries, bringing back with them the impress of the study, which is more and more visible in the perception and realization of the beautiful. All that remains is that the knowledge and the love of art shall pervade the people. The time surely is not remote, not more than fifty years, when another Ruskin, looking around upon our land and upon the art glories of our cities, will have to tell a very different story from his predecessor. Every impulse, however slight, that may contribute to this con-

THE PAYMENT OF PENSIONS. THE relations of pensioners towards the Government are very different from those of any other class of creditors, and they are entitled to special consideration at the hands of those who are charged with the administration of the affairs of the nation. The majority of pensioners are old, sick, or wounded men who receive a mere pittance as a recognition of their sacrifices in behalf of the country, or their female representatives, who are often even less competent than the men to understand the intricacies of the Pension Bureau's system of management. The Government owes it to these people that the money it engages to give them shall be paid promptly at such times as will most conduce to the interests of the pensioners and with as little trouble to themselves as possible. The Government, of course, has to protect itself from fraud, but the safeguards that it finds necessary to adopt ought not to be chargesble in the slightest degree to the pensioners, who are entitled to all that the law allows them to the last penny. It is notorious that under the present system of paying pensions many grievous wrongs are perpetrated, and that in very many cases the amounts actually received by the pensioners scarcely represent more than half what they are entitled to. One reason for this is the practice of paying the pensions semi-annually, and another is the payment of them through special penagents, who are in addition to good salaries allowed their fees and perquisites, which come out of the pockets of the recipients of the Government bounty. The pensions which the Government undertakes to pay are insignificant at the best. and are scarcely more than sufficient just keep soul and body together; and when those who are entitled to them are obliged to sell their claims at heavy rates of discount, and to pay fees to agents before they can get their money, there is certainly something wrong, that ought to receive the attention of Congress. We are glad to notice, therefore, that on Friday last Mr. Lawrence, of Ohio, introduced a bill in the National House of Representatives to remedy the evils of the existing system, and to provide a better method of paying pensions. This bill directs the Secretary of the Treasury to select in every county in the United States either a national bank, a postmaster, an assessor or collector of internal revenue, or other existing officer, to prepare all pension papers for the payment of pensions free of cost to pensioners. The Commissioner of Pensions is to certify to each officer a list of the pensioners in his county, and transmit a check on the nearest Assistant Treasurer, payable to the order of each pensioner, to be delivered to the pensioners, who should thus be paid every three months instead of semiannually. The sum of \$100,000 is to be paid annually to the officers for their services instead of the \$250,000 paid now in commis-

The general provisions of this bill are such as will secure the desired reforms; but it would be much better if the pensions were made payable monthly. The convenience of the pensioners certainly ought to be consulted a matter of this kind before that of the Government officers. It would not be amiss also to make it a punishable offense for any of the agents of the Pension Bureau to take a fee of any description from pensioners for the performance of the duties of their office. We sincerely hope that the bill of Mr. Law rence will receive the favorable consideration of Congress, and that some prompt action will be taken to secure either its adoption or some law of a similar character. The pensioners of the Government are without political influence, and because they are dependent on the generosity and good-will of mem bers of Congress for justice in this matter, they should receive a cordial recognition of their claims.

LUCIEN ANATOLE PREVOST PA RADOL.

A CABLE despatch of Saturday gives a report that M. Lucien Anatole Prevost Paradol, the celebrated author, has been appointed by the French Government to represent it at Washington. This gentleman was born at Paris on the 8th of August, 1829. He commenced his education at the College Bourbon, where at an early age he displayed distinguished abilities and succeeded in gaining a number of the highest prizes. Afterwards he entered the Ecole Normale, from which he graduated in 1851, securing the prize for eloquence awarded by the Academie Française for his "Eloge de Bernardin Saint-Pierre." The degree of Doctor in Letters was conferred upon him in 1855, and he was appointed to the chair of French Literature by the faculty of Aix.

In 1856 he became one of the editors of the Journal des Debats, which sheet he retired from for a few months in 1860 to take an editorial position on the Presse. He was also a frequent contributor to other journals, and he became especially famous for his numerous sarcastic and violent articles in the Courrier du Dimanche, many of which brought the publication under the displeasure of the Government. In 1863 M. Paradol was a candidate for the Corps Legislatif for the Sixth Circumscription of Paris, but was defeated. He was elected a member of the French Academy in place of M. Ampere on

April 7, 1865. Besides his contributions to the newspapers and magazines, M. Paradol is a prolific author, and he has published a number of works, among which the following are the most promirent:- 'Revue de l'Histoire Universelle.' published in 1854; "Du Role de la Famille dans l'Education," which was "crowned" by the French Academy in 1857; "De la Liberte des Cultes en France," in 1858; "Essais de Politique et de Litterature," in 1859; "Les Anciens Paradis," a political treatise for newspapers would have had good cause for which the author was imprisoned for a month summation is of value at this turning-point and fined 1000 frames; "Du Gouvernement which, according to the veracious Mark

Evening Telegraph of our career, and therefore we have joyfully Parlementaire, le Decret du 24 Novembre," seized the opportunity of our theme to make in 1860; "Deux Lettres sur la Reforme du la discourse of far wider emplication." veaux Essais de Politique et de Litterature, and "Quelques Pages d'Histoire Contemporsine." in 1862; "Essais de Politique et de Litterature" (3d series), in 1863; and "Etudes sur les Moralistes Français," in 1864. In May, 1867, he was appointed one of the committee of five members of the French Academy to superintend a new edition of the "Historical Dictionary of the French Language.

> DRAKE is now a candidate for the seat on the bench of the Supreme Court of the United States made vacant by the death of Associate Justice Wayne, of Georgia. The circuit to which the new justice will have to be allotted comprises the States of Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas, Missouri, whence Drake hails, and which he now represents in the Senate, is comprised in another circuit, and the objection which was partially responsible for the rejection of Attorney-General Hoar's nomination to the same position applies with equal weight to the case of Drake. But there is a still more potent objection than that of mere locality. Drake has shown himself to be in favor of practically abolishing the highest judicial tribunal of the country, and for this reason, if for no other, his name should not be seriously mentioned in connection with a membership of it. He is a radical Republican in politics, which is all very well as far as reconstruction and a few other matters are concerned; but, like a good many radical Republicans who are very great as mere politicians, but quite insignificant as statesmen, he does not appear to be aware that radicalism has any limits whatever. The last man in the nation to be placed on the bench of the Supreme Court is the great Missouri Drake. If the Fifth Circuit is so meagrely supplied with loyal men of commanding legal talent and acquirements that it is necessary to go outside of it in filling the vacancy, the Senate had better reconsider its adverse action on the nomination of Attorney-General Hoar. The latter may be worse than an indefinite vacancy, but he would assuredly be better than Drake.

> THE PUBLIC PRINTING SWINDLE. - One of the strongest arguments in favor of the abolition of the franking privilege is the immense saving to the people which will result in the matter of public printing. When members can no longer scatter tons of public documents through the mails without expense to themselves or the unfortunate persons to whom they are directed, they will not be as enthusiastic as they now are in ordering them to be printed at the expense of the people, especially as the Government has its own printing office, and no favored contractor is to be benefited by the reckless destruction of good white paper. Heretofore the Government printing office, with all its enormous facilities, has been so overcrowded with work that no document has been ready for distribution until after the lapse of so many months that what little value it would have possessed if given to the public at an early day has been destroyed by the delay. This is another and powerful argument in favor of a reform in the matter of the public printing. But the recent action of the Senate on the bill abolishing the franking privilege which passed the House is interpreted by the friends of the measure as diminishing its chances of becoming a law, and it therefore becomes the duty of such members of both houses of Congress as are in favor of retrenchment in the printing item to urge the speedy passage of a bill with that specific object. Such a bill has been presented by Mr. Anthony in the Senate. and he should without unnecessary delay fulfil his pledge to call it up and urge its enactment at an early day.

Vox Popula.-M. Ollivier, in the debate in the French Legislative Chamber on the arraignment of Rochefort, fell back on the people for support. He declared that the Imperial Government did not dread revolution, and that it had other cause for its sense of security than was afforded by the possession of a loyal, faithful and courageous army -the "irresistible moral strength which is imparted by the assent of the nation." This sounds remarkably well, or rather would so sound, if France had heard these words for the first time on this occasion. But it becomes a very interesting question as to whether the loyalty, faith and courage of the hundred thousand armed men who were held in readiness to pounce upon Paris on the day of Victor Noir's funeral were inspired by the moderation of the masses, or whether the moderation of the masses was not inspired by the loyalty, faith and courage of the hundred thousand armed men. "The assent of the nation" in the United States has one meaning, and in France it has another. Here the words will bear a literal interpretation. and no tyranny or iniquity is endured unless the people either prefer to endure it or are too apathetic to overturn it. But in France so many appliances in the shape of legions of loyal, faithful and courageous armed men are brought to bear upon the expression of the popular will, that a minister merely stultifies himself by rolling the words under his

TRAIN has set up a startling tune on that golden harp wherewith he was recently presented at Buffalo by "twenty girls dressed in white." He has paid the full gold rates on the following telegram by the French cable:-"To Victoria, London.—Give me back my tramways, or down goes your monarchy. Train."

It would not be easy to depict the consternation of the mother of Prince Arthur when this threatening missive was placed in her hand, and we shall not attempt it. But it is easy enough to see that Train is an idiot of the first water-so much of one, in fact, that he is unable to perceive it himself, or to believe it when told of it by another. If Train had been struck by lightning during the recent "heated term," the readers of the rejoicing. He is getting to be like the mule

· Chicago de a Carrella.

Twain, fell through the roof of Judge Olliver's house a dozen times or so-slightly

Congress is in full blast. Every one who glances over the daily report of the proceedings is made painfully aware of that fact. There are now about eleven hundred bills on the calendar of the lower house, and probably nearly as many on that of the Senate. This mass of embryo legislation is frightful to contemplate. The people have one consolation, however. The greater the number of bills presented, the less time has Congress to pass bills that are of no use at the best, and for the most part unwise and mischievous.

SPECIAL NOTICES. For additional Special Notices are the Inside Pages.

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MOST ACADEMY OF MUSIC. THE STAR COURSE OF LECTURES. RALPH WALDO EMERSON. THIS (MONDAY) EVENING, February 7.

Subject-"Social Life in America." REV. E. H. CHAPIN, D. D., February 10. Subject—"The Roll of Honor." GEORGE WILLIAM CURTIS, February 24. Subject—"Our National Folly—The Civil Service." PROF. MENRY MORTON, February 23, Subject—"Solar Kelinsea." BAYARD TAYLOR, March 8, Subject—"Reform and Art."

Subject—"French Folks at Home."

PROF. ROBERT E. ROGERS, March 24.
Subject—"Chemical Forces in Nature and the Arts."

ANNA E. DICKINSON, April 7.
Subject—"Down Brakes."
Admission to each Lecture, 50 cents: Reserved Seats, 75 cenia.
Tickets to any of the Lectures for sale at Gould's Piano
Rooms, No. 23 CHERNUT Street, from 9 A. M. to 5 P. M.
Doors open at 7. Lecture at 8.
24 tf

CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF STREETS AND ROADS OF PHILADELPHIA.

At the meeting for the organization of the Board of Directors, held on Friday, January 21, 1879, the following officers were elected:

rectors, held on Friday, January 21, 1870, the following officers were elected:—
SAMUKL B. THOMAS, President.
WILLIAM V. STEVENSON, Treasurer.
EDWARD B. SHIPPEN, Secretary pro tem.
Those desiring to become members of the Association are invited to call at the office, No 42! WALINUT Street, or to give their names to the Collectors who have been appointed, and who are furnished with authority signed by the officers to receive subscriptions, and to give receipts for the same. the same.
SUBSORIPTIONS FIVE DOLLARS.
SEwimst SAMUEL B. THOMAS, President.

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA J. H. MCILVAINE, D. D., will deliver a Course of TEN LECTURES on SOCIAL SCIENCE, at the Hall of the University, NINTH Street, near Market. The introducory Lecture will be given on WEDNESDAY MVE NING, February 9, 1870, at 8 o'clock, and the remaining lectures on the Wednesday evening of each week ther

THE FIDELITY INSURANCE, TRUST, AND SAFE DEPOSIT COMPANY.

PHILADELPHIA, January 27, 1870.

The Stated Annual Meeting of the stockholders of this Company will be held at its office, No. 329 and 331 CHESAUT Street, on TUESDAY, the 8th day of February next at 12 o'clock M, for the election of a Board of Directors for the ensuing year, and for the transaction of such further business as may come before them.

127 let

JAMES M. SCOVEL,

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FOR COLLECTIONS CLAIMS OVER ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS, FIVE PER CENT. 241m.

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF TRADE. A stated annual meeting of the Philadelphia Board of Trade, for choice of officers and members of Executive Council, and for other business, THIS (atonday) EVENING, 7th February, at 5 of clock.

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126 Imap

DR. HARBISON HAVING RETURNED from a professional trip through Europe, has resumed practice at his late residence, No. 228 N FWELFTH Street. 2 5 3t

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